

Today's News - Wednesday, October 12, 2016

- ArcSpace brings us eyefuls of Marks Barfield's British Airways i360 tower in Brighton, which "seeks to reinvent the Victorian 'pleasure pier' for the 21st century."
- O'Sullivan parses a report that offers "big lessons the Bloomberg Philanthropies Mayor's Challenge winners can teach other cities" (talking and listening involved - what a concept!).
- Mortice takes a deep dive into what ails Chicago's public housing conundrums, and how some architects and developers are working "to change a broken system" - lessons abound for other cities, too.
- Campbell Gallagher doesn't buy the mayor of Paris's plans to "reinvent" the city: "Mon Dieu! Doesn't anyone get what Paris is doing to itself? Hidalgo will march through Paris like Sherman through Georgia. Let the world cry out as loudly for Paris as for Palmyra!" (Paris = Palmyra?!?)
- OZ Architecture's Bershof and Stone make the case for preservation and adaptive reuse as "extremely economically and environmentally valuable options" for booming cities - "character-rich cities tend to be more attractive."
- Barnett investigates the often fraught relationship between landscape architecture and indigenous communities: "Native plants are all the rage, but native humans are bracketed out" - though there is hope with "the emerging field of Traditional Ecological Knowledge."
- Bennetts says he "feels like the industry has gone backwards since the recession. Have we all forgotten where 'best practice' was going?" Now, sadly, it's "leading to emasculation of those who believe in integration of design and construction."
- Galea researches what it's going to take to "get more women in hard hats": while there are no signs on construction sites saying "'you're not welcome,' it's the thousand paper cut reminders that continue to drive the female drought."
- Saffron cheers HWKN and team's Pennovation Center that uses "savvy understanding of the intersection between design, branding, media, and social networking" to turn a factory "into a rocket ship, a not-so-subtle metaphor for innovation and exploration."
- Lamster lauds Cunningham's work on Dallas's historic Temple Emanu-El: "his hand is all but invisible - it is as it was, which is as it should be. He was more forceful elsewhere."
- Pedersen queries the Ford Foundation's Walker re: renovating the landmark to align with the organizations' "emerging social justice mission - and letting the public in."
- Stathaki is quite struck by the "design-led neighborhood" rising around the soon-to-open Design Museum in London: "The site's transformation is fascinating."
- SOM's Center for Character and Leadership Development at the U.S. Air Force Academy is "an artful study in conflict avoidance, restraint, and strategic power projection."
- NYC's Landmarks Preservation Commission gives the green light to Studio Gang's expansion of the American Museum of Natural History, "but preservation and neighborhood parks groups were not as bullish. After hours of tension, a palpable wave of relief emanated from the assembled architects."
- Call for entries: Inaugural Van Alen Institute Flash Competition: Opportunity Space: A Response to European Migration and Economic Opportunity through Design (with monetary support to make it happen!).

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Marks Barfield Architects: British Airways i360, Brighton, U.K.: The world's most slender tall tower is a 'vertical pier,' that is set to redefine the shoreline...Designed by the team responsible for the enormously successful London Eye, [it] seeks to reinvent the Victorian 'pleasure pier' for the 21st century. [images]

Feergus O'Sullivan: The Big Lesson Bloomberg Mayor's Challenge Winners Can Teach Other Cities: Talking and listening is as important as a bright idea: ...detailed in a new report from...Bloomberg Philanthropies...If projects like Comoodle and Synathina thrive, the borrowed pigs and unused market halls may well be soon forgotten. What will remain, hopefully, is a stronger bond between institutions and the citizens they serve...- CityLab (formerly The Atlantic Cities)

Zach Mortice: When public housing goes private: Can Chicago's architects and developers work with public housing residents to change a broken system? ...building a mixed-income building is one thing. Forming an actual community across racial and class lines is another...Absent a political mandate or a broad base of grassroots housing activism, design is one of the few tools stakeholders have left in their attempts to improve [the] public housing landscape. -- Patricia Saldaña Natke/UrbanWorks; Peter Landon/Landon Bone Baker Architects; LBBA Lab; Grant Gibson/CAMESgibson; SOM [images] - Curbed Chicago

"We'll always have Paris"? Mayor Anne Hidalgo says she will "reinvent" Paris...She will pierce the low horizon with a dozen skyscrapers, replace classic stone facades with rivers of glass...Mon Dieu! Doesn't anyone get what Paris is doing to itself? Wake up, world! Hidalgo will march through Paris like Sherman through Georgia...Let the world cry out as loudly for Paris as for Palmyra! By Mary Campbell Gallagher/International Coalition for the Preservation of Paris (ICPP) -- SOS Paris - Architecture Here and There

Booming cities benefit by respecting existing architecture: Places like Denver struggle with the best use for historic buildings: ...don't new buildings bring in higher rent, faster growth and more visibility for a city? Not necessarily. Preservation and adaptive reuse are actually extremely economically and environmentally valuable options...In pure real estate value, character-rich cities tend to be more attractive... By Jim Bershof and Becky Stone/OZ Architecture - ColoradoBiz Magazine

Rod Barnett: Designing Indian Country: Suppose Native America is not over...How do we create public spaces that enable true contact between cultures? Native plants are all the rage, but native humans are bracketed out...Indigeneity is scarcely mentioned in landscape architecture's seminal texts...The emerging field of Traditional Ecological Knowledge can help navigate this difficult territory. -- Eero Saarinen; Dan Kiley; Michael Van Valkenburgh Associates; Brian Davis; John Paul Jones/Jones and Jones [images] - Places Journal

Rab Bennetts: It feels like the industry has gone backwards since the recession: Contracts have got tougher, project risk is dumped on the weakest, partnering is out the window and adversarial practices are back: Have we all forgotten where "best practice" was going? Design itself is being fragmented between concept and delivery teams, leading to emasculation of those who believe in integration of design and construction. -- Bennetts Associates - BD/Building Design (UK)

How do we get more women in hard hats? While women on construction sites aren't fronted with signs saying "you're not welcome", it's the thousand paper cut reminders that continue to drive the female drought...the construction workplace is one designed for unencumbered men. By Natalie Galea - Architecture & Design (Australia)

Inga Saffron: At Penovation Center, UPenn creates a lab for the social media age: ...savvy understanding of the intersection between design, branding, media, and social networking is now on full display...it turns the factory into a rocket ship, a not-so-subtle metaphor for innovation and exploration. -- Marc Kushner/Matthias Hollwich/HWKN; KSS Architects; Bruce Mau Design; Land Collective [images]- Philadelphia Inquirer

Mark Lamster: Dallas' historic Temple Emanu-El gets an architectural facelift for an age of disconnection: ...for religious institutions...working in a world of social media is an everyday problem...a means of addressing this challenge came, perhaps ironically, in the very physicality of architecture...Gary Cunningham was charged with restoring this dramatic [principal sanctuary], and his hand is all but invisible...it is as it was, which is as it should be. He was more forceful elsewhere... -- Howard Meyer/Max Sandfield/William Wurster (1957); Cunningham Architects [images]- Dallas Morning News

Martin C. Pedersen: Q&A: The Ford Foundation's Darren Walker on Renovating a Landmark: ...[he] has, since taking over in 2013, tried to steer the organization toward a social justice mission...the renovation, aligning the building with the foundation's emerging mission, and letting the public in. -- Dan Kiley; Kevin Roche John Dinkeloo and Associates; Gensler [images]- Common Edge

Ahead of the Design Museum opening, we look back at the site's transformation: As [it] gears up for its November opening, a new design-led neighbourhood emerges on its West London site, courtesy of OMA with Allies and Morrison, and John Pawson...The site's transformation is fascinating... By Ellie Stathaki [images]- Wallpaper*

Polaris Hall: SOM delivers a bold but fitting addition to the United States Air Force Academy: Center for Character and Leadership Development...the architecture effectively choreographs the personal and professional reckoning...an artful study in conflict avoidance, restraint, and strategic power projection. By Justin Fowler -- Walter Netsch; Skidmore, Owings & Merrill [images]- The Architect's Newspaper

Studio Gang's AMNH expansion gets the green light from Landmarks Preservation Commission: ...unanimously approved plans for a major expansion to the American Museum of Natural History in New York...but preservation and neighborhood parks groups were not as bullish...After hours of tension, a palpable wave of relief emanated from the assembled architects. -- Higgins Quasebarth & Partners; Reed Hilderbrand [images]- The Architect's Newspaper

Call for entries: Inaugural Van Alen Institute Flash Competition (international): Opportunity Space: A Response to European Migration and Economic Opportunity through Design: a temporary, mobile structure that will support economic opportunity and social inclusion in Malmö, Sweden; \$10,000 prize, travel stipend, up to \$25,000 for prototype; registration deadline: November 7 (submissions due November 18)- Van Alen Institute / City of Malmö / White Arkitekter Architects / Individuell Människohjälp / Skanska

ANN feature: INSIGHT: Communication Issues in A/E/C Firms: 10 predominant communications failures that hinder both individual career growth and business success. By Donna L. Maltzan- ArchNewsNow.com

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